

California Department of Fish and Game Fish Hatchery and Stocking Program

Hatchery Operations

The CDFG currently operates 14 inland trout hatchery facilities and 10 anadromous fish hatchery facilities throughout the State, rearing 4 trout species, 3 salmon species, and 2 species of char. The trout species include rainbow, brown, cutthroat, and golden. The char species reared are lake trout and brook trout. The salmon species include Chinook, coho and kokanee.

Salmon and Steelhead Hatcheries

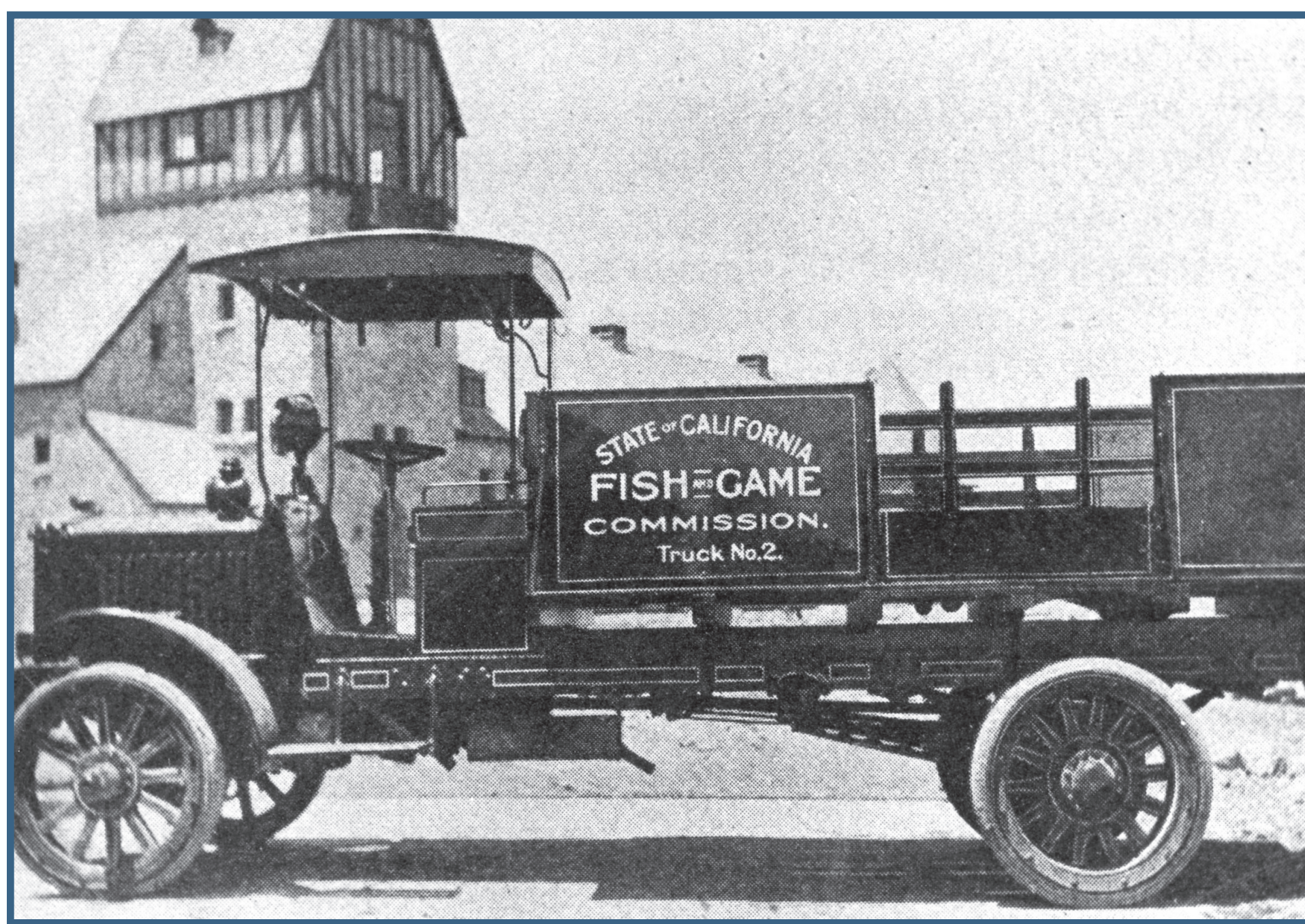
Nine of the ten salmon and steelhead hatcheries within California are located on rivers that are dammed, blocking access to upstream spawning habitat. Fish releases from these hatcheries typically occur directly into the rivers where the hatcheries are located. Salmon and steelhead smolts may be transported downstream to release locations in efforts to increase their survival and ultimate return to the hatchery for spawning.

Spawning at these hatcheries is done annually when the adult fish return from the sea. Once eggs and milt are collected and mixed, the fertilized eggs are raised in a hatchery building until they can be moved to hatchery troughs and ultimately into raceways for grow-out and release from the hatchery.

Trout Hatcheries

Trout hatcheries acquire eggs from “brood stock” fish located at various hatcheries throughout the State. These eggs are reared in a manner similar to the anadromous operations, except these fish are stocked in high mountain lakes, streams, creeks, and low-elevation reservoirs in California.

Eggs for inland salmon which are reared in the hatcheries and released in the inland areas of California are surplus to anadromous mitigation needs (Chinook), are collected at locations throughout the State where there are existing self-sustaining populations (kokanee), or are acquired from outside of California (coho and lake trout).



Stocking truck at Mt. Whitney, 1918



Mt. Shasta Hatchery, 1958

